



June 22, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing to seek immediate federal action to expedite all necessary efforts to see the Northumberland Ferry service between Wood Islands, Prince Edward Island, and Caribou, Nova Scotia, reinstated.

The Northumberland Ferry service is an essential transportation link for families, for the construction and shipping industries and for PEI's tourism sector and the only alternate connection to the rest of Canada in the event of a major shut down of the Confederation Bridge. We have heard concern from stakeholders regarding the capacity of the Saaremaa, including that it may not be capable of accommodating the same level of non-passenger vehicle traffic, such as transport trucks and recreational vehicles, as the MV Confederation.

The extended closure of the ferry service will have significant negative economic and logistical impacts for businesses and will exacerbate existing cost of living challenges for Island residents. With our tourism industry heading toward peak season, it is crucial, particularly for businesses in Eastern Prince Edward Island that rely on summer traffic from the ferry to sustain their operations, that the Northumberland Ferry service be reestablished as quickly as possible.

Further, I am seeking an update on the replacement of the MV Holiday Island. The fire last summer on the MV Holiday Island, followed by the MV Confederation being removed from service for an extended period this summer, highlights the need for two ferries to be in place for the crossing to provide a level of security and redundancy.

I urge you to make all possible efforts to see the ferry service restored immediately and to develop a plan to ensure that this connection is protected in future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DKing'.

Hon. Dennis King  
Premier of Prince Edward Island

CC: Hon. Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport  
Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs, Member of Parliament for Cardigan  
Hon. Darlene Compton, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Belfast-Murray River  
Hon. Ernie Hudson, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Sean Casey, Member of Parliament for Charlottetown  
Heath MacDonald, Member of Parliament for Malpeque  
Robert Morrisey, Member of Parliament for Egmont